

Settlers brought government from England with them

1. Ordered Government
  - a. Government in towns and colonies based on what the colonists new in England
    - i. Sherriff, coroner, assessor, justice of peace, grand jury
    - ii. Order to the government
2. Limited Government
  - a. Government is limited in what it may do
  - b. Each person has certain rights that cannot be taken away
3. Representative Government
  - a. Government serves the will of the people
  - b. People have a voice in deciding the government policies

Where did the settlers get these ideas?

1. Magna Carta (Great Charter)
  - a. Granted the people protection for landholders against military endeavors of the king
  - b. Trial by jury
  - c. Due process of law
  - d. Protection against randomly punishment by the king
2. Petition of Right
  - a. King's power limited so he would not be able to imprison political enemies, rule by military, not require troops to be sheltered in people's homes
3. Bill of Rights
  - a. English Bill of Rights
    - i. No standing army in peacetime
    - ii. Fair and speedy trial
    - iii. Free from excessive cruel punishment

## Government in the Colonies

- 13 colonies over 125 years 1607-1733
- Each had a charter
  - Written permission from the king to live in the new world

## Three types of colonies

1. Royal (NH, MA, NY, NJ, VA, NC, SC, GA)
  - a. Directly answered to the king who assigned the governor
  - b. Typically had two houses of government (bicameral=2 houses)
    - i. Upper house: governors council
    - ii. Lower house: property owners
2. Proprietary (MD, PA, DE)
  - a. King had made a land grant to one person
  - b. Land could be governed and settled as the proprietor chose
  - c. Governor appointed by the proprietor
  - d. MD, DE both had a bicameral legislature
  - e. PA had a unicameral legislature
  - f. Governors council was separate from the legislature
3. Charter (CT, RI)
  - a. Self governing
  - b. Governor elected by the white male property makers
  - c. Judges appointed by legislature
  - d. Bicameral legislature
  - e. Charters were eventually kept as the state constitution because they were fairly liberal

## Section 2 Independence

- Colonists came to expect and practice self government because of the distance to and from England
- Colonial legislature took on more and more broad powers to govern themselves
- 1760: New king George III cracked down on the colonies and took more interests in the governing
  - New taxes "taxation without representation"
  - Colonist greatly opposed all of these new interferences from England
  - Most of the colonists were in agreement that they were British subjects but after so many years were did not think that Parliament should be ruling America
- An attempt for Colonial unity during the 125 years
  - Massachusetts tried to have a league of friendship with Indians
  - William Penn tried to encourage "inter-colonial cooperation" in 1696
  - Albany Plan
    - Designed to protect colonial trade

- Protect from Indian attacks
  - Raised a colonial military
  - King did not approve the plan so it never was established
- Stamp Act: Stamp must be paid on every piece of paper printed for use
- Colonists sent a “declaration of rights and grievances” to the king complaining about these stamps which led to the king repealing the stamps but imposing other taxes on the colonies
- Colonists boycotted all English goods
  - Boston Tea Party: Colonists of Boston “Son’s of Liberty” got together and decided to dress like Native Americans board a ship filled with tea and throw all the tea overboard
- First Continental Congress
  - 1774 after Boston Tea Party
  - 55 delegates all colonies but Georgia
  - Debated situation and plans of action
  - Agreed to meet again
- Second Continental Congress
  - Ultimately decide to write the Declaration of Independence
  - Nations first government
    - Stayed in place from 1776 until Articles of Confederation went into affect
  - By 1776, Colonies were abolishing its colonial charters and declaring themselves states with constitutions
  - **Constitution:** body of fundamental laws setting out principles, structures, and processes of the government
    - Massachusetts Constitution of 1780 is the oldest of the present day constitutions and it is the oldest still in use anywhere in the world today
    - Most of the new constitutions included
      1. Popular sovereignty: government only exists with the consent of the governed
      2. Limited Government: not too much power is given to one person
      3. Civil rights and Liberties: rights all people hold that the government must respect
      4. Separation of Powers and Checks and Balances: 3 branches that could each watch the other and make sure they did not do anything against the Constitution or the people

### Section 3: Critical Period

War of Independence is over.

Now what shall they do?

#### Articles of Confederation

1. Confederation: loose alliance of states (or nations) who cooperate for the good of the people
2. Each state stood alone but they would come together for the common defense, to secure liberty, and their mutual and general welfare
3. Unicameral government
  - a. Delegates were selected yearly and chosen by each state
  - b. Each state had only one vote
  - c. President was chosen annually and had little power
4. Powers of Congress
  - a. Make war and peace
  - b. Send and receive ambassadors
  - c. Make treaties
  - d. Borrow money
  - e. Set up currency
  - f. Build navy
  - g. Settle disputes among states
5. State obligations
  - a. Obey the articles and acts of Congress
  - b. Provide the funds and troops needed by Congress
  - c. Help fund the national government
  - d. Surrender all fugitives
  - e. Submit disputes to Congress
  - f. Allow open trade and travel among states
6. Weaknesses of Articles
  - a. Congress could not tax
  - b. Could only borrow money which had already gotten them in trouble under the second continental congress
  - c. Congress could not regulate trade between states
  - d. Congress could not MAKE the states obey the Articles of Confederation'
  - e. 9 out of 13 colonies had to approve Congress every time it wanted to do anything that would better the country
7. All of these weaknesses caused major trouble among the states
  - a. States were making their own money
  - b. Making agreements with foreign countries
8. States began to realize the Article were not working

9. Virginia and Maryland met together to resolve a trade problem between those two states and when that worked out they called for a nationwide meeting to fix the Articles
10. Constitutional Convention
  - a. All states EXCEPT Rhode Island came together in Philadelphia on May 25, 1787
  - b. Goal was to REVISE the Articles but in the end they decided they were not fixable
  - c. Closed all the doors and windows to have complete privacy (very hot and icky inside but they did not want word to get out about what they were doing)
  - d. These men are often referred to as the “framers”
    1. 39 of them had been members of the continental congress
    2. Washington was elected president of the meeting
11. 2 Plans and 3 compromises
  - a. Virginia Plan
    1. Favored large states
    2. 3 branches of government (legislative, judicial, executive)
    3. Bicameral (2 house)
      - a. House of Representatives would be “elected” according to population or whichever state could provide the most money to the government
      - b. Senate would be chosen from the House delegates
    4. Congress would have all the same powers as under the Articles of Confederation as well as ...
      - a. The power to override state law that conflicted with national law
      - b. Could force the states to abide by national law
  - b. New Jersey Plan
    1. Favored smaller states
    2. Unicameral (one house)
    3. Delegates would be equal
    4. Congress would have the same powers as under the articles with limited and closely watched power to tax and regulate trade among states
    5. More than one federal executive (3) who could be removed if the delegates so chose and with majority vote

c. Connecticut Compromise (Great Compromise)

1. Designed to combine the two plans
2. Bicameral
  - a. House of Representatives by population (so big states have a little more power)
  - b. Senate would be equal representation from each state
  - c. 3 branches of government
  - d. 1 president
- d. 3/5 Compromise
  1. How would the number of population be decided?
    - a. Southern states wanted the slaves to count (so they could have more power)
    - b. All free people were counted (regardless of color)
    - c. 3/5 of "all other persons" would be counted
      - i. Slaves and indentured servants would only be counted as 3/5 of a person

Ratification

1. 2 groups came out of this process
  - a. Federalists: people who were in favor of ratifying the Constitution
  - b. Anti-Federalists: people who wanted to keep the Articles of Confederation and not approve the Constitution because
    - i. they objected to the ratification process
    - ii. God was absent from the Constitution
    - iii. States could not make their own Currency
    - iv. Increased power to the central Government
    - v. Lack of a bill of rights
2. Delaware was the first state to approve and Rhode Island was the last state to approve it
3. With New Hampshire's approval, the Constitution was law but did not really take power until the two biggest state VA and NY approved it
4. *The Federalist Papers* written by Alexander Hamilton and others were essay's supporting the Constitution and they were really what turned the corner for these people

New York was chosen as the temp capitol

George Washington was elected President

John Adams was elected VP (the runner up for pres became the VP)